

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/686,966

Examiner

Cheryl Lewis

Applicant(s)

TOYAMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the applicants' communication received on October 30, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4-7, 9-18, 21, and 24, renumbered as claims 1-18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

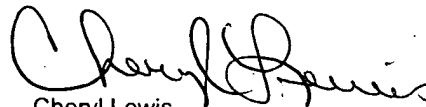
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Cheryl Lewis
Patent Examiner, A.U. 2167
February 4, 2008

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-18, 21, and 24 are allowed. These claims have been renumbered as claims 1-18.
2. Claims 22, 23, and 25 have been cancelled in the amendment received on October 30, 2007.

Drawings

3. The drawings filed on October 16, 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with Scott Felder on January 22, 2008.

5. Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 14, and 24 have been amended and claims 3, 8, 19, and 20 have been cancelled as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A graphic user interface for querying a database of media that is tagged with geographic location information and displaying the query results, comprising:

interchangeable panels that are used for determining query constraints and viewing query results of a database of media that is tagged with geographic location information, the interchangeable panels comprise one or more constraint panels and one or more display panels; and

media dots that are aligned with a grid that encompasses the geographic location information of the media in the database, wherein each of said media dots has a size that varies as a function of a number of media items represented by the media dot, such that each media dot indicates how many media are associated with a grid location on the map[.],

wherein a display panel can be one of:

a full view panel that brings a database item to full view at a high resolution;

a list panel that shows the results of a database query as a list of small thumbnails; and

a preview panel that shows a preview of a single database item together with a textual display of the database item's properties.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The graphics user interface of claim [3] 1 wherein the constraint panels allow a user to define the constraints of a database query.

5. (Currently Amended) The graphics user interface of claim [3] 1 wherein the constraint panels allow a user to define database search constraints to include one or more of:

map related to the map where a database item was captured;

timeline related to a significant event corresponding to a database item;

person related to a database item;

keyword related to a database item; and

media type of a database item.

6. (Currently Amended) The graphics user interface of claim [3] 1 wherein the display panels show the results a database query that is jointly specified by one or more constraint panels.

8. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A graphic user interface for displaying data from a database of media that is tagged with geographic location information, comprising: an output device configured to display media dots that are aligned with a grid that encompasses the geographic location information of the media in the database, the media dot's diameter, d, is varied logarithmically with the number of items it represents, wherein each of said media dots has a size that varies as a function of a number of

media items represented by the media dot, such that each media dot indicates how many media are associated with a grid location on the map[.]

wherein
$$d = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n = 0 \\ a \log(n) + k, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where n is the number of items, a is a multiplicative constant, and k is the minimum size of a dot representing one item.

19-20. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A graphic user interface for querying a database of media that is tagged with geographic location information and displaying the query results, comprising:

interchangeable panels that are used for determining query constraints and viewing query results of a database of media that is tagged with geographic location information, the interchangeable panels comprise one or more constraint panels and one or more display panels; and

media dots that are aligned with a grid that encompasses the geographic location information of the media in the database, wherein each of said media dots has a size that varies as a function of a number of media items represented by the media dot, such that each media dot indicates how many media are associated with a grid location on the map; and

a reflective feature that shows how query constraints and query results are related through computer input device interaction wherein when a user passes a computer input device over any database item in a window, information related to the database item will be highlighted in other windows containing information on that database item, wherein a display panel can be one of:

a full view panel that brings a database item to full view at a high resolution;

a list panel that shows the results of a database query as a list of small thumbnails; and

a preview panel that shows a preview of a single database item together with a textual display of the database item's properties.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record does not render obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention nor anticipate the combination of claimed elements including "interchangeable panels that are used for determining query constraints and viewing query results of a database of media that is tagged with geographic location information, the interchangeable panels comprise one or more constraint panels and one or more display panels" and "wherein a display panel can be one of: a full view panel that brings a database item to full view at a high resolution; a list panel that shows

the results of a database query as a list of small thumbnails; and a preview panel that shows a preview of a single database item together with a textual display of the database item's properties" as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 24.

As per claim 14, the prior art of record does not render obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention nor anticipate the combination of claimed elements including "the media dot's diameter, d , is varied logarithmically with the number of items it represents, wherein each of said media dots has a size that varies as a function of a number of media items represented by the media dot, such that each media dot indicates how many media are associated with a grid location on the map."

The remaining claims, 1, 2, 4-7, 9-18, 21, and 24, are dependent claims, thus these claims are patently distinct over the art of record for at least the above reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

NAME OF CONTACT

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4113. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

(571) 273-4113 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/ Technology Center (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Cheryl Lewis/
Patent Examiner, A.U. 2167
January 30, 2008